

**MCC(SW/AW) Mikel T. Bookwalter**  
**Deputy Public Affairs Officer**  
**Naval Station Rota, Spain**

Mikel Bookwalter was born in Bloomington, Ind. in 1973 and graduated Bloomington High School South in 1991.

He joined the Navy and shipped to basic training in July 1994. Upon graduation, he attended JO A-school in Indianapolis, Ind. He graduated A-school in May 1995 and reported to his first duty station at Naval Media Center (NMC) detachment Rota, Spain. While there, he worked briefly in TV production as a reporter before spending three years in radio as on-air talent and production tech..

In 1999, Mikel transferred from Rota to another broadcasting assignment at NMC Det. Keflavik, Iceland. While there, he served as the assignments editor, news director and newscast editor for the daily (M-F) 30-minute newscast. He also served as the host of the one hour, weekly live call-in talk show "Feedback" with the base commander and NATO admiral. During the last year of his tour in Iceland, he assumed the role of radio program director and on-air live radio host.

After his tour in Iceland, Mikel reported for duty at Navy Recruiting District Indianapolis as the public affairs officer in 2001. While there he worked toward raising Navy awareness in a land-locked area by coordinating air shows and working with local radio and TV stations and local professional sports teams.

In 2004, Mikel transferred to AFN South Headquarters in Vicenza, Italy for another broadcasting tour. While there he served as the NCOIC of the joint network production center. His primary technical duty was to provide quality control for all broadcast products to be released from AFN detachments in Rota, Sigonella, Vicenza, Livorno and La Madalena. In 2005, he deployed with the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Combat Team in support of OEF to provide coverage of their mission there. While in Afghanistan, he provided coverage of the initial aide from the U.S. to Pakistan after the devastating earthquake near Islamabad. He also led a joint team of broadcasters to provide radio and TV coverage of military Olympians at the 2006 Winter Games in Torino.

In 2007, Mikel left Italy and headed to USS John C. Stennis in Bremerton, Wash. While aboard Stennis, he served as the operations chief and later as the department leading chief for the ship's media department. In 2010 his media team claimed six CHINFO Merit Awards, including three first places, more than any other carrier.

After Mikel's tour aboard Stennis, he reported for duty, again, in Rota, Spain. This time his tour was as the deputy public affairs officer for Commander, U.S. Naval Activities Spain. His team won a CHINFO 1<sup>st</sup> place Merit Award for "The Coastline" (tabloid format) newspaper.

Mikel continues to serve as the DPAO in Rota where he is joined by his wife and four children. He will complete his Bachelor's of Science in Management with the University of Maryland University College this Spring and graduate cum laude.